

Amendment to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-8. Cancelled.

9. (New) A method for stunning poultry for slaughter with a stunning gas comprising:

conveying the poultry successively through a stunning chamber, wherein an influence of the stunning gas of the poultry is adjusted by increasing or reducing an active length of at least one conveyor conveying the poultry within the stunning chamber.

10. (New) A method according to claim 9 wherein the influence of the stunning gas is adjusted by increasing or reducing a time of conveying the poultry exposed to the stunning gas within the stunning chamber.

11. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein the increasing or reducing the time of conveying the poultry through the stunning chamber includes increasing or reducing a speed of the at least one conveyor conveying the poultry through the stunning chamber.

12. (New) A method according to claim 9, wherein the influence of the stunning gas is also adjusted by varying a concentration of the stunning gas at varying levels within the stunning chamber through which the at least one conveyor moves with the stunning gas concentration increasing in a downwards direction of movement of the poultry along the at least one conveyor in the stunning chamber.

13. (New) A method according to claim 10, wherein the influence of the stunning gas is also adjusted by varying a concentration of the stunning gas at varying levels within the stunning chamber through which the at least one conveyor moves with the stunning gas concentration increasing in a downwards direction of movement of the poultry along the at least one conveyor in the stunning chamber.

14. (New) A method according to claim 11, wherein the influence of the stunning gas is also adjusted by varying a concentration of the stunning gas at varying levels within the stunning chamber through which the at least one conveyor moves with the stunning gas concentration increasing in a downwards direction of movement of the poultry along the at least one conveyor in the stunning chamber.

15. (New) A system for stunning of poultry for slaughter with a stunning gas comprising at least one conveyor for receiving and introducing poultry for slaughtering to, through and out of a stunning chamber containing the stunning gas in which at least one downwards running conveyor and at least one upwards running conveyor is disposed for conveying the poultry through the stunning chamber, the at least one downwards running conveyor successively conveying the poultry

downwards in the stunning chamber, and the at least one upwards running conveyor successively conveying the poultry upwards with the stunning chamber, wherein the at least one downwards and the at least one upwards running conveyor providing adjustment of an active length of conveying the poultry within the stunning chamber to vary an influence of the stunning gas on the poultry while within the stunning chamber.

16. (New) A system in accordance with claim 15, wherein:

the at least one of the downwards running conveyor includes a downwards running course and the at least one upwards running conveyor includes an upwards running course which adjust the active length of conveying of the poultry through the stunning chamber.

17. (New) A system in accordance with claim 15 comprising:

at least one horizontal conveyor including a horizontal course providing adjustment of the active length of conveying the poultry through the stunning chamber.

18. (New) A system in accordance with claim 16 comprising:

at least one horizontal conveyor including a horizontal course providing adjustment of the active length of conveying the poultry through the stunning chamber.

19. (New) A system in accordance with claim 15 wherein:

the at least one of the downwards running conveyor and the upwards running conveyor comprises a helical conveyor interacting with at least one horizontal conveyor to provide the poultry to the stunning chamber and to output the poultry from the stunning chamber.

20. (New) A system according to claim 15, wherein the downwards and the upwards running conveyors comprise mutually interacting members which telescope to vary the active length.

21. (New) A system according to claim 16, wherein the downwards and the upwards running conveyors comprise mutually interacting members which telescope to vary the active length.

22. A system according to claim 17, wherein the downwards and the upwards running conveyors comprise mutually interacting members which telescope to vary the active length.

23. A system according to claim 18, wherein the downwards, horizontal and upwards running courses comprise mutually interacting members which telescope to vary the actual length.

24. (New) A system according to claim 15, wherein the stunning chamber is divided into zones which, during stunning, comprise a lower zone having a stunning gas concentration of approximately between 45% and 51%, an intermediate zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 25% and approximately 32% to 46%, and an upper zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 5% and approximately 8% to 10%, with sensors being provided for monitoring and controlling of the gas concentration in the zones.

25. (New) A system according to claim 16, wherein the stunning chamber is divided into zones which, during stunning, comprise a lower zone having a stunning gas concentration of approximately between 45% and 51%, an intermediate zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 25% and approximately 32% to 46%, and an upper zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 5% and approximately 8% to 10%, with sensors being provided for monitoring and control of the gas concentration in the zones.

26. (New) A system according to claim 17, wherein the stunning chamber is divided into zones which, during stunning, comprise a lower zone having a stunning gas concentration of approximately between 45% and 51%, an intermediate zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 25% and approximately 32% to 46%, and an upper zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 5% and approximately 8% to 10%, with sensors being provided for monitoring and control of the gas concentration in the zones.

27. (New) A system according to claim 18, wherein the stunning chamber is divided into zones which, during stunning, comprise a lower zone having a stunning gas concentration of approximately between 45% and 51%, an intermediate zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 25% and approximately 32% to 46%, and an upper zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 5% and approximately 8% to 10%, with sensors being provided for monitoring and control of the gas concentration in the zones.

28. (New) A system according to claim 19, wherein that the stunning chamber is divided into zones which, during stunning, comprise a lower zone having a stunning gas concentration of approximately between 45% and 51%, an intermediate zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 25% and approximately 32% to 46%, and an upper zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 5% and approximately 8% to 10%, with sensors being provided for monitoring and control of the gas concentration in the zones.

29. (New) A system according to claim 20, wherein that the stunning chamber is divided into zones which, during stunning, comprise a lower zone having a stunning gas concentration of approximately between 45% and 51%, an intermediate zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 25% and approximately 32% to 46%, and an upper zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 5% and approximately 8% to 10%, with sensors being provided for monitoring and control of the gas concentration in the zones.

30. (New) A system according to claim 21, wherein that the stunning chamber is divided into zones which, during stunning, comprise a lower zone having a stunning gas concentration of approximately between 45% and 51%, an intermediate zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 25% and approximately 32% to 46%, and an upper zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 5% and approximately 8% to 10%, with sensors being provided for monitoring and control of the gas concentration in the zones.

31. (New) A system according to claim 22, wherein that the stunning chamber is divided into zones which, during stunning, comprise a lower zone having a stunning gas concentration of approximately between 45% and 51%, an intermediate zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 25% and approximately 32% to 46%, and an upper zone having a stunning gas concentration of between 5% and approximately 8% to 10%, with sensors being provided for monitoring and control of the gas concentration in the zones.

32. (New) A system according to claim 15 comprising a PLC control system for controlling mutually dependent mechanical parameters including a speed of the at least one conveyors and speed of a slaughtering line which receives birds which have been stunned in the stunning chamber.